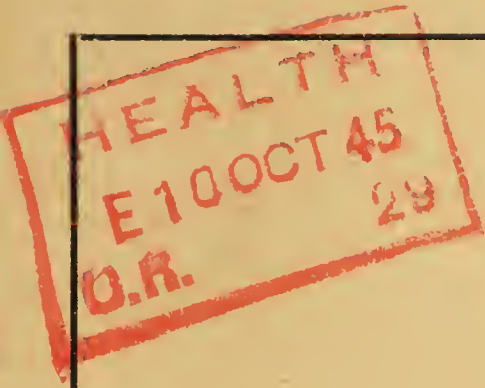


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Borough of Kendal.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1944

KENDAL:

TITUS WILSON AND SON, PRINTERS.

1945



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1944. The Report follows the lines of those presented during the past few years.

I am indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in carrying out immunisation against Diphtheria and tend to them my thanks.

Should you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

7th July, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1944.

Area (acres) 3,691
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1944 .. 17,620

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Live Births	Legitimate	121	106	227
	Illegitimate	12	16	28
				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.4
Birth Rate, England and Wales				.. .. . 17.6
Still Births	5	5	10	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 37.7
Deaths	103	103	206	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.7
Death Rate, England and Wales				.. .. . 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	1	3.8
Other Puerperal Causes	1	3.8
Total	2	7.7
Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales		1.93

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	71
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	.. .. .	46
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	32
„ Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. .. .	2

The largest number of deaths from any one Cause were:—

Heart Disease	.. .. .	52
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	.. .. .	36
Cancer	.. .. .	32

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Monday Clinic for antenatal cases has been continued throughout the year as well as the Wednesday Clinic for babies and children; the attendance of both babies and children has increased. The evacuation from the South which took place in the summer has no doubt accounted for some of this.

There has been no need to call upon the Kendal Home Nurses for service in connection with Puerperal Pyrexia or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The Home Help has attended nine cases and three further applications for her services have been received.

The Mother's Clinic has not been utilised to any great extent, eleven mothers attending and of these six were from areas outside Kendal.

The War Nursery at Abbot Hall has been regularly visited and 48 sessions have been held during the year and 478 examinations of children made.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of times the Centre has been open

For Expectant Mothers	47	} 99
For Children	..	..	..	..	52
Number of babies under 1 year attending	199	} 324
„ children 1 to 5 years	..	..	..	..	125
„ attendances of babies	1355	} 2577
„ „ children	..	..	..	..	795
„ „ mothers	..	..	..	..	114
„ „ expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	266
„ „ post-natal mothers	..	..	..	..	47

Number of Mothers admitted to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act 30

SUMMARY OF NURSE METCALFE'S WORK:—

First Visits to Babies under 1 year	252	} 2584
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	1010
Visits to children 1-5 years	..	..	..	942
First visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	64
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	104
Still-birth enquiries	..	..	..	7
Infant death enquiries	..	..	..	4
Visits to Institutions	..	..	..	11
Attendances at Centre	..	..	..	51
„ Ante-natal Clinic	..	..	..	45
„ Mother's Clinic	12	} 70
„ Immunisation Clinic	..	..	..	12
Lessons and examinations at Rose Cottage	70	

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental Treatment for Expectant and Nursing Mothers has been available through the services of Mr. Irvine who treated 13 Expectant or Nursing Mothers, extracted 76 teeth, supplied 7 dentures, 10 fillings and 18 other treatments, for these he gave 20 sessions.

Pre-School children to the number of 13 attended his Clinic, several of these being from the War Nursery and for these he did 5 extractions, 15 fillings and 15 other treatments; for these he gave the equivalent of $3\frac{1}{2}$ sessions.

All this work has been much appreciated by the parents of the children.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Prematurity	Congenital Diseases	Broncho-Pneumonia	Birth Injury	Tubercular Meningitis	Gastro-Enteritis	Total
2	4	3	1	1	2	13

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Under 1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
5	1	—	—	6	3	3	—	1	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The total rainfall at Fisher Tarn was 54.31 inches.

At the commencement of the year there was 164 days' supply; 35½ million gallons was supplied from Mints Feet; at the close of the year there was 177 days' supply in hand.

By-washing from Fisher Tarn took place from 25th January to 9th February and from 17th December to end of year.

Bolefoot tank was cleaned out and Mints Feet Well weeded once. The Chlorination Plants worked satisfactorily.

Following a complaint of suspected metallic contamination of the water obtained from the public supply a sample was taken for analysis and the examination showed that lead, copper and iron were not present in detectable amounts.

Monthly bacteriological examinations of the public supplies have been made and these have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no extension to the public sewers. The sewage disposal works have been maintained in an efficient manner, and the effluent discharged to the river continues to be satisfactory.

There are 150 houses outside the sewerage area which discharge their drainage into cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Again it must be reported that the work of public cleansing has been carried out only with great difficulty due mainly to the impossibility of obtaining suitable and sufficient labour. During the summer months there were complaints of nuisance caused to residents near Castle Grove Tip. Shortage of labour, shortage of covering material and unauthorised tipping of offensive material were largely responsible for this trouble. Spraying with disinfectants and insecticide was resorted to during hot weather.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year. 40 houses against which Demolition or Closing Orders are in force still remain occupied by the original tenants, also, 38 houses which were subject to Orders are

occupied under Defence Regulations 68AA. by persons who have been rendered homeless by enemy action.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour and materials, repairs to houses have been restricted to essential repairs.

Many houses which before the war might have been re-conditioned have to-day become so hopelessly dilapidated that demolition is the only remedy, and for this reason also many owners have not been pressed to carry out extensive repairs.

No infestation by bugs in Corporation houses has been reported or discovered. A few cases in old houses have been reported and treated.

EVACUEES.

Overcrowding is still prevalent in some houses due to the pressure of evacuees and billeted war workers.

On 1st January, 1944 there were 480 official evacuees billeted in houses in Kendal. During the year 1504 additional evacuees were received and 1441 returned home, leaving 543 at the end of the year.

The two hostels at "Brantholme" and "West Bank" for "difficult" children have been retained. The house known as "Waverley" in Castle Street is now used for billeting large families of evacuees.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

121 samples were taken from dealers who deliver milk in Kendal. The following are details:—

1.	GOOD.				
	(Samples complying with both tests)	..	..	46	or 38%
2.	MODERATE.				
	(Samples complying with one test only)	..	..	11	or 9%
3.	BAD.				
	(Samples which complied with neither test)	..		64	or 53%

The number of bad samples was 53% or slightly worse than 50% in 1943. Good samples were 38% compared with 43% in 1943.

Bacillus Coli Content.

44	Samples were free from Coli	..	..	..	..	36%
13	,, had one tube	..	..	..	..	11%
5	,, had 2 tubes	..	..	..	..	4%
59	,, had 3 tubes	..	..	..	..	49%

Methylene Blue Test.

61 complied with the test 50%

60 did not comply with the test 50%

38 Samples were from Kendal farms and 83 from farms outside the Borough. Of 121 samples submitted, all were examined for cleanliness and 80 for the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacillus.

Kendal Farms.

Samples	..	38
Good	..	14
Moderate	..	2
Bad	..	22

Bacillus Coli Content.

Samples examined	38
Free from Coli	.. 13
In 1 tube	.. 2
In 2 tubes	.. 2
In 3 tubes	.. 21

Methylene Blue Test.

Samples examined	38
Complied	.. 19
Did not comply	.. 19

Rural Farms.

Samples	..	83
Good	..	32
Moderate	..	9
Bad	..	42

Bacillus Coli Content.

Samples examined	83
Free from Coli	.. 31
In 1 tube	.. 11
In 2 tubes	.. 3
In 3 tubes	.. 38

Methylene Blue Test.

Samples examined	.. 83
Complied	.. 42
Did not comply	.. 41

37% of Kendal samples complied, compared with 38% of the Rural Samples.

4 Samples out of 80 were reported to contain tubercle bacilli.

Numerous complaints were received during the summer months concerning rapidly souring milks.

In the matter of supplies from the rural areas it was very gratifying to have the close co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the

South Westmorland Rural District Council with the result that much useful work was done and improvements effected.

Particularly was this most valuable in the case where the Health Committee summoned a producer-retailer from the rural area to appear before them to show cause why his name should not be removed from the register.

Repeated complaints were received alleging the filthy condition of the milk delivered by this vendor and action was taken under Section 22 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and the vendor summoned to appear before the Health Committee; he was legally represented and after hearing evidence from both sides the Committee cancelled the registration. Though notice of appeal was given it was not proceeded with and the Committee's decision therefore stood. The milk purveyor subsequently sold his business.

Early in the year, the Health Committee, approved the issue of a circular letter to all retailers having premises in the Borough, calling attention to the importance of essential sanitary requirements necessary for the distribution and storage of milk. A period of twelve months was given for certain minimum works to be done. It is gratifying to report that the letter was generally well received by the retailers and several have already complied with the conditions set out in the said letter.

MEAT.

At the Public Slaughter House the following animals were slaughtered:—

Beasts	2891
Sheep	34565
Calves	7475
Pigs	91
	<hr/>
	45022
	<hr/>

CASUALTY ANIMALS.

The Ministry of Agriculture have again co-operated, wherever possible, by sending animals for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order on days when little or no slaughter was taking place.

Farmers and dealers still send animals for slaughter which obviously have no food value attached thereto.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1373	1518	7475	34565	91
Number inspected ..	1373	1518	7475	34565	91
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	8	42	79	115	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	28*	136*	7	448†	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2.6%	11.8%	1.1%	1.6%	5.5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned	20	103	6	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	128	462	—	—	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.7%	37.2%	.08%	—	17.5%

Notes. * Condemnations for livers and part livers affected with distomatosis, angioma, etc. are not included, no distinguishing of sexes being kept.

† Not included in these figures are 4296 livers affected with distomatosis or other parasitic infections.

The following meat was deposited at the Public Abattoir for distribution. Slaughter had taken place either at home or abroad.

(a) HOME KILLED.

34½ Beasts; 285 Sheep; 109 Pigs; 2 Calves.

Of this amount it was found necessary to reject the following:—

Carcase of calf (nephritis with emaciation).

„ sheep (ill-bled).

„ „ (dropsy with emaciation).

„ „ (uraemia).

„ „ (fevered condition).

„ pig (swine erysipelas).

„ calf (ill-bled).

Total offal of heifer (inflammation).

32 lbs. of beef (injuries).

26 „ (abscesses).

(b) IMPORTED.

887 Boneless Qtrs. of Beef.

486 Prs. of Mutton Legs.

74 Cases beef cuts.

1452 Cases pork.

884 Cases of Boneless Pork.

918 Cases of pork cuts.

2907 Sheep and Lambs.

434½ Pigs.

116 Bags Veal.

136 Cases of Pork Trimmings.

550 Cases of Offal.

72 Bags of Culled Mutton.

124 Bags of Beef and Pork.

1 Carcase of Beef.

Of this amount it was found necessary to reject the following:—

2½ Pork Loins (decomposition).

The following foodstuffs were condemned in shops or warehouses:

<i>Tins.</i>				<i>Jars.</i>			
Fruit	..	..	9	Peanut Butter	..	..	5
Meat	..	..	180	Meat Paste	..	..	7
Fish	..	..	96	Pickles	..	..	15
Vegetables	..	..	93	Picalilli	..	..	3
Soup	..	..	34	Sauce	..	..	1
Milk	..	..	100				
Syrup	..	..	1				
Treacle	..	..	1				

356	lbs.	Fish.
55		Fish Cakes.
28		Stone Apples.
40	lbs.	Cheese.
33	lbs.	Jam.
154	Packets	Barley.
42	„	Ovaltine.
63	„	Cake Mixture.
120	„	Yorkshire Pudding Mixture.
220	„	Egg Mixture.
92	„	Cocoa.
48	„	Barley Pudding Mixture.
102	„	Pudding Mixture.
46	„	All Food.
1½	lbs.	Biscuits.
30	„	Raisins.
36	„	Prunes.
30	„	Cooked Pork.
65	doz.	Eggs.
9	lbs.	Boiled Ham.
3½	„	Tea.
84	„	Yeast.
8	cwts.	Spaghetti.
36	lbs.	Self Raising Flour.
27	„	Flour.
62	„	Scone Flour.
415	„	Butter.
11	„	Boiled Sweets.
6	„	Brown Flour.
14	„	Semolina.
1209	„	Bacon.
30	„	Sausage Meat.

ADULTERATIONS, ETC. & CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., City Analyst, Liverpool.

The County Council has delegated to the Borough the functions of procuring samples for analysis or examination.

98 samples of food were taken for analysis, as detailed below:—

Article	No. of Samples	Result	Remarks
Milk	43	Genuine	Vendors cautioned 5 samples from one source. Vendors cautioned. Further sampling proved satisfactory
„	5	Deficient in Milk Fat	
„	6	Slightly watered	
Semolina	I	Genuine	Slightly deficient in Meat. Vendor cautioned.
Lem-Lem	I	„	
Lemon Flavouring	I	„	
Scotch Oats ..	I	„	
Junkets	I	Genuine	
Sausage Meat ..	I	Not Genuine	
Leaf Gelatine ..	I	Genuine	
Powdered Gelatine	I	„	
Powdered Nutmegs	I	„	
Saccharin Tablets	6	„	
Pepper	I	„	
Custard Flavouring	I	„	
Semolina Pudding Mixture	I	„	
Ground Cinnamon	2	„	
Cloves	I	„	
French Mustard ..	I	„	
Peanut Butter ..	I	„	
Dessicated Tomato Soup	I	„	
Ground Ginger ..	I	„	
Mixed Spice ..	I	„	
Baking Powder ..	I	„	
Frutella Table Dessert	I	„	

Article	No. of Samples	Result	Remarks
Pork Sausage ..	1	Not Genuine	Slightly deficient in Meat. Vendor Cautioned.
„ „ ..	2	Not Genuine	Deficient in meat and soya content Legal proceedings. £5 penalty imposed
„ „ ..	11	Genuine	2 contained preservative which was properly declared
„ „ ..	1	Not Genuine	Deficient in Low Fat Soya to the extent of 33%. Legal Proceedings. £5 penalty imposed.
Beef Sausage ..	1	Not Genuine	Deficient in Low Fat Soya to the extent of 30%. Legal Proceedings. Case dismissed.

In the milk the highest fat content was 4.6% and the highest non-fatty content was 9.45%.

The average percentage of milk fat and non fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine was 3.59% and 8.69% respectively.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912.

	No. of samples examined for preservatives.	No. of Samples in which preservative was found.
Milk ..	54	Nil.
Cream ..	Nil.	Nil.

A complaint of food poisoning due to cheese was investigated, as several people in the house had been affected and a sample was sent away for bacteriological and chemical examination with the following

results:—No food poisoning organisms of the *Salmonella* group nor anaerobic organisms were found; there were no metallic poisons with the exception of traces of Zinc which were not sufficient to cause poisonous symptoms; some fungus was present on the cheese which when steam distilled gave evidence of degradation products, indicating some putrefaction had commenced. The attack was of short duration and all the patients recovered within a few days.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been a diminution in the number of notifiable infectious diseases compared with those of the previous year; there were 46 cases of Scarlet Fever, a diminution of 11 and this is all the more satisfactory in the fact that elsewhere there has been an increase. The high incidence of Diphtheria during the last two years has agreeably declined, 12 cases were notified against 64 in the previous year and 54 in 1942. Of these 12 cases, 5 had been immunised and 4 had been infected prior to coming into the Area, but as they developed the disease in the Borough, they have been included in the casualty list. There were only two cases in children under 5 and 1 of these was an imported case, 5 others of school age and 5 adults; of the adults one died and he was a case from outside the Area; there were no other deaths; the children immunised had the disease mildly, so that it would appear the effect of immunisation as a protection diminishes in accordance with the number of years since it was done, so that it may very reasonably be hoped that if all those who had been done 4 or 5 years ago were to have an extra injection, a still further decline of the disease might be assured. Immunisation has been steadily pursued and 186 children under school age and 799 of school age were treated during the year.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 2 of these had been infected outside the Borough; the general type of disease was very mild; of the 45 cases, 33 occurred in children going to school and whilst it is amongst such that considerable incidence might be expected, examination shows that a number of children were going to school in an infectious condition.

There were 4 cases of Erysipelas, one of which was an imported case, 2 cases of Enteric Fever, both of which had contracted infection elsewhere and 2 cases of Undulant Fever, one of which occurred in a visitor to the town; both of these cases were a considerable time before convalescence was reached.

There were notifications of 1 case in each of the following:—Paratyphoid Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Poliomyelitis, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum; the case of Pneumonia terminated fatally.

There was a very extensive epidemic of Measles throughout the year but notifications only amounted to 82; the notification of Measles can never represent the actual cases occurring as in many cases no doctor is called in, so that figures are quite unreliable; the same remarks apply to Whooping-Cough but not the same extent, there were two cases of this disease notified.

There were a number of cases of Chicken-pox and Mumps, but there was no serious outbreak of Influenza.

The School Nurses pay periodic visits to all schools and examine children for infestation of heads and are present at the medical inspections. The Welfare Visitor is always on the look-out for such cases in the children under school age; good work is carried out in the way of disinfection where required at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

The incidence of Scabies has much diminished. The Clinic opened at the First Aid Post to deal with Scabies has continued under the Supervision of the School Nurse who has been assisted by Members of the Kendal Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. There have been 82 sessions at which 143 cases have been treated involving 482 baths. A Clinic for adult males has also been established, the work has been carried out by Sergt. J. H. Armer of the Kendal Ambulance Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade; at this 25 baths were given to 6 patients. In addition 68 cases from the County were treated, these receiving 120 baths.

The School Medical Officer states there is a marked improvement in cleanliness amongst School Children and there is no evidence of a decline in nutrition.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever ..	45	—	2	1	5	3	18	12	—	2	1	1	—	44	—
Diphtheria ..	12	1	—	—	—	1	4	1	3	1	—	1	—	12	1
Enteric Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Paratyphoid ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Undulant Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ..	82	4	8	4	17	14	31	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-Cough ..	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ..	154	6	10	6	22	19	54	17	7	4	3	5	1	66	2

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	5	—	1	1	1	—	—
25	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	7	12	2	1	3	5	1	—

There was a slight decrease in the number of both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases notified being 19 and 3 respectively. Of these 7 Pulmonary cases had contracted the disease outside the Area but were resident within it and 3 of these died. Of the resident cases 2 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary also died.

